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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,696	10/31/2003	Makoto Saito	2018-801	9831

23117 7590 02/23/2005
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TU MINH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3748

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,696	SAITO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tu M. Nguyen	3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,5 and 7-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>103103</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election of the invention of the species of Figure 3B in an Applicant's Response to an Election/Restriction Requirement mailed on February 3, 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are readable thereon and will be examined in their full merit. Claims 3, 5, and 7-14 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CAR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suwabe et al. (U.S. Patent 6,827,754).

Re claim 1, as shown in Figures 3 and 12-13, Suwabe et al. disclose an exhaust gas cleaning system for an internal combustion engine, the exhaust gas cleaning system comprising a particulate filter (11), which is fixedly held by a holding member (13a) in a metallic case (14) disposed in an exhaust pipe of the engine and collects particulate matters included in exhaust gas, wherein

- the particulate filter is formed of a monolithic structural body having a multiplicity of cells provided by porous walls (11b) in parallel with flow of the exhaust gas,

- the particulate filter has a particulate matter collecting area having wall flow structure, in which the cells are blocked alternately with filler on an exhaust gas inlet side or an exhaust gas outlet side of the particulate filter (see Figure 3), and a peripheral heat-retaining layer (12), which is formed by blocking the cells in a peripheral area extending inward from a peripheral surface of the monolithic structural body by a predetermined width so that the peripheral heat-retaining layer continuously surrounds a periphery of the particulate matter collecting area (see lines 45-61 of column 7), and

- the predetermined width of the peripheral heat-retaining layer ranges from 5 to 20 millimeters (the peripheral heat-retaining layer (12) has a radial length corresponding to two times the partition wall pitch (lines 42-44 of column 18), wherein the partition wall pitch is 2.54 millimeters or less (lines 33-34 of column 8)).

Re claim 4, in the exhaust gas cleaning system of Suwabe et al., the peripheral heat-retaining layer is formed by blocking the entire cells in the peripheral area (see Figure 12),

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which extends inward from the peripheral surface of the monolithic structural body by the predetermined width, on the exhaust gas inlet side of the monolithic structural body.

Re claim 6, in the exhaust gas cleaning system of Suwabe et al., the peripheral heat-retaining layer is formed by blocking the cells, which are completely included in the peripheral area (see Figure 12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office Action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suwabe et al. as applied to claim 1 above, in view of legal precedent.

Re claim 2, in the exhaust gas cleaning system of Suwabe et al., the monolithic structural body has a peripheral skin portion (11a) providing a peripheral wall of the monolithic structural body, the peripheral surface of the monolithic structural body serves as a peripheral surface of the peripheral skin portion, and the peripheral skin portion has a thickness of 1.5 millimeters (line 39 of column 14).

Suwabe et al., however, fail to disclose that instead of 1.5 millimeters, the peripheral skin portion has thickness in a range from 0.2 to 1.0 millimeter.

Suwabe et al. disclose the claimed invention except for specifying an optimum range of peripheral skin thickness from 0.2 to 1.0 millimeter. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a specific optimum range of peripheral skin thickness, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Prior Art

6. The IDS (PTO-1449) filed on October 31, 2003 has been considered. An initialized copy is attached hereto.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of five patents: Brighton (U.S. Patent 4,504,294), Montierth (U.S. Patent 4,557,682), Kasai et al. (U.S. Patent 5,720,787), Kuwamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,853,459), and Ketcham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,673,414) further disclose a state of the art.

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Communication

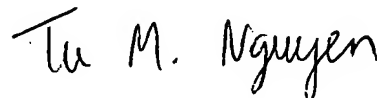
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Tu Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4862.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Thomas E. Denion, can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TMN

February 18, 2005



Tu M. Nguyen

Primary Examiner

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